

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating woodchips, comprising the steps of:
preparing a DNA encoding an antisense RNA ~~substantially~~ complementary to the whole or a part of a transcription product of ~~[[a]]~~ one or more cellulolytic enzyme genes ~~derived~~ from *Basidiomycete Coriolus hirsutus*;

preparing a vector comprising (a) said DNA, or (b) a recombinant DNA comprising said DNA and a DNA fragment having a promoter activity, wherein said DNA binds to said DNA fragment such that an antisense RNA of the cellulolytic enzyme gene is generated as a result of transcription;

transforming host cells with said vector, wherein the host cells are *Coriolus hirsutus*, so as to prepare the host cells having a suppressed cellulolytic enzyme activity; and

inoculating said host cells having a suppressed cellulolytic enzyme activity into woodchips to treat them.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 1, wherein the one or more cellulolytic genes is a cellobiohydrolase I gene ~~is an isolated cellobiohydrolase I gene~~ comprising ~~any one of the following~~ a nucleotide sequences ~~(a) to (e)~~:

~~(a) a nucleotide sequence as shown in~~ selected from SEQ ID No. 7, 9, ~~or~~ and 11;

~~(b) a nucleotide sequence hybridizing with a nucleotide sequence comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence according to (a) under stringent conditions, and encoding a protein having a cellobiohydrolase I gene enzyme activity; and~~

~~(c) a nucleotide sequence comprising deletion, substitution or addition of one or more nucleotides with respect to SEQ ID No. 7, 9 or 11, and encoding a protein having a cellobiohydrolase I gene enzyme activity.~~

5 - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for producing a pulp comprising:

using the woodchip according to claim 12 treating woodchips according to the method of claim 1;

obtaining the treated woodchips, and

using the treated woodchips to produce the pulp.

14. (Canceled)